

SENATE FINANCE & CLAIMS

Exhibit No. 2
Date 3-6-15
Bill No. HB 33

March 3, 2015

To whom it may concern:

The Richland County Local Advisory Council for Mental Health (LAC) consists of many community members, organizations and agencies that work together to address the many mental health issues facing Richland County. The group consists of representation from the following agencies and individuals: Eastern Montana Community Mental Health Center, Richland County Public Health, Sidney Health Center, Disaster and Emergency Services, Richland County Sheriff's Office, Faith-based Community, and members of the Judicial System. The group has worked to bring in trainings and grants to assist us in managing the needs in our county and surrounding areas. One area that continues to be an unmet need is the lack of mental health crisis intervention and jail diversion services. This area is of more concern in our area due to the rapid increase in drug use and crime in our area. We have a rapidly increasing population that has created a stress on our already limited services. There is a recognition of increased demand on infrastructure in our county; however, mental health and crisis services are often left off the list of these needs.

The LAC members were encouraged to see the components of House Bill 33 and if implemented can make a huge difference for our community and save limited resources. We have already had discussions about a need for a strategic plan to outline solutions on both the county and regional level. We feel that with a plan for early intervention and sharing of resources we will be able to meet the needs of our county in a more effective manner for both the individual and the tax payers. With additional funds on the local level this can happen. We would be happy to provide any additional information you may need to consider this bill.

If you have question for the group please feel free to contact any of the following people:

Marie Logan – Eastern Montana Community Mental Health Center – 433-4635

Judith LaPan – Richland County Public Health – 433-2207

John Dynneson – Richland County Sheriff – 433-2919

Neil Lindorff – Faith-based Community – 433-3707

Ray Trumpower – Judge, City of Fairview – 742-5616



of Montana
March 5, 2015

Senator Brenden & Committee Members:

Thank you for your work and diligence for the citizens of Montana. I represent Mental Health America of Montana – a mental health advocacy, education, and research non-profit state-wide organization with a mission to promote mental health and wellbeing for all Montanans. The Board of Directors (a diverse group from across the state) has asked that I provide testimony to you asking for your support of the mental health House Bills 24, 33, 34, 35, & 47.

All are strategic in efforts to provide services at a community level where persons with a mental health diagnosis live, work, have family and receive treatment. Some facts may be of assistance:


1. Montana's general fund spending on mental health is ranked in the top ten of all states. We spend per capita on mental health - \$173.59 - high cost per capita is related directly to institutional care costs (see graph below)

Community-Based MH Expense - Percent of total state MH spending	Institutional Care Expense		Combined Community Based and Institution Per Person Expense
81%	15%	Vermont	\$239.84
74%	26%	Colorado	\$88.41
84%	15%	Minnesota	\$150.18
73%	26%	Oregon	\$53.05
56%	44%	Montana	\$173.59

2. Unfortunately Montana spends approximately 60% on institutional care at a rate of \$579/day or over \$211,000 per year on a bed at the Montana State Hospital
3. Annual community-based care is approximately \$2,531/person – based on financials gathered from one of Montana's largest community-based mental health centers
4. Montana ranks 44th in the nation in regards to "access" to care per a recent study conducted by Mental Health America National office
 - a) Children's access to care is ranked 49th
 - b) Adult access to care is ranked 42nd
 - c) Montana has ranked in the top 5 per capita for suicides for over 40 years

Please support the Mental Health Bills that gained so much respect and votes in the House committees and whole. I stand ready to be a resource to you in your deliberations.

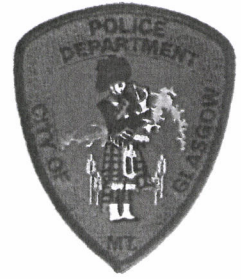
Thank you,


Dan M. Aune
Executive Director

"Educating and Advocating for the Mental Health of all Montanans."
www.montanamentalth.org



Glasgow Police Department



238 2nd Avenue South
Glasgow, MT 59230

Phone: 406-228-8050
Fax: 406-228-8996
E-mail: glasgowpd@nemont.net

Bruce Barstad
Chief of Police
bbarstad@nemont.net

Brien Gault
Captain
bgault@nemont.net

March 5, 2015

Chairman Brenden and Senate Finance & Claims Committee Members:

The Glasgow Police Department stands in support of House Bill 47 to appropriate money for youth crisis diversion pilot projects. Mental Health America of Montana has been a provider of youth crisis diversion services in our community. We would like to see these services continue.

The funding ensures that officers have a safe place to take youth who are in a mental health crisis. They are safely housed until family and support services can become involved. When all these parties come together there can be a positive, safe outcome and the youth can remain in our community.

Thank you for your time and service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bruce Barstad".

Bruce Barstad
Chief of Police